

# Nuclear Medicine

## Hepato-Biliary Scan

### Patient Information Sheet

A hepato-biliary scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at the function of your gallbladder. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer and a scan using a gamma camera.

### Preparation for your appointment

It is important that you **do not eat or drink 6 hours before your first appointment time.**

If you take any **medication containing Morphine**, you must **call the department** to let us know.

**In the 24 hour period before your appointment** drink at least 1 litre of fluids (preferably water). This will make giving the injection easier. You can use the toilet as often as you need to.

Wear or bring clothes that **do not contain metal clips or zips. ALL metal objects such as coins, keys, belts, jewellery and any clothing with metal must be removed before the scan.**

*If possible, please come to your appointment alone as we can only accommodate a small number of people in our waiting room.*

### Are there any risks from the radioactive tracer?

The radioactive tracer is used as sparingly as possible and the benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation. The radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation received from natural sources in **1 year**. Drinking plenty of fluids and emptying your bladder regularly will help to remove the radiation.

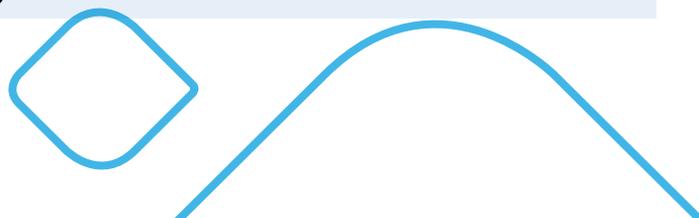
There are no restrictions for spending time with adults after your scan; however, children and pregnant women have a higher risk from radiation, so you should avoid close contact with them for **8 hours** after your injection.

**For 24 hours after your appointment** all patients should sit on the toilet when passing urine. This is to make sure that all the urine gets properly flushed down the toilet as it will be slightly radioactive.

### Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

**Let us know in advance if you may be pregnant or breastfeeding.** This is important because of the small risk of childhood cancer from the radiation that we use.

If you have male healthcare records and were registered female at birth, please talk to the technologist at your appointment so that they can rule out the possibility of pregnancy. This information will not be recorded or shared without your consent.



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## How is the scan performed?

- A small plastic tube (cannula) will be placed in a vein in your arm.
- You will lie on your back on a scanning bed.
- The gamma camera will be placed above and below your abdomen.
- A small amount of radioactive tracer will be injected through the cannula. This injection will not make you feel any different and will not affect your ability to drive home.
- The scan will start as soon as the injection has been given. Pictures will be continuously taken for up to **2 hours**. It is important you lie still and breathe normally. We have a television for you to watch a film if you wish or speakers to enjoy some music while you have your scan.
- About 45-60 minutes after your injection, you will be asked to drink a small amount of a milkshake-style drink called Calogen which will help assess the function of your gallbladder.

For this scan, you will not have to remove any clothing and you will not be enclosed in a tunnel.

## After your scan

### Results

Results will be sent to the doctor or specialist who referred you for the scan in 2/3 weeks.

### Travelling after your scan

Some major event/ transport venues have very sensitive radiation detectors. These detectors could be triggered by the small amount of radioactivity remaining in your body on the days following your scan. If you're planning to travel within **7 days** following your scan, we recommend that you carry your appointment letter with you.

## Information for other hospitals or care homes

*Within the 4 days following your scan:*

If you are admitted to a care home or hospital (other than the RUH), or if you are cared for by a healthcare worker in your home, please ask them to contact the RUH Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department. Their employer might need to register with the Health and Safety Executive to show that their staff are aware of the small amount of radioactivity that is present for a few days after your scan.

If you have any concerns or questions about your scan, or you need this information in another format such as larger print, please telephone: **01225 82 6630**.

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Zone B, Department B58  
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG  
01225 82 6630 | [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Please contact the Patient Support and Complaints Team (PSCT/ known previously as PALS) if you would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email: [ruh-tr.psct@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.psct@nhs.net) or telephone: **01225 82 5656**.

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